Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming products by bonding from lignocellulosic particle material in which said material is subjected to a binding operation ~~using~~ by curing a phenol formaldehyde resin and ~~which is cured during said operation wherein~~ at least one of maleic acid ~~and~~ and/or maleic anhydride characterized in that the maleic anhydride and/or maleic acid is added ~~during the formation of such products so as to be~~ as a solid to the lignocellulose particles either at the same time as the resin or is incorporated into the lignocellulose particle mix separately to the resin so that the maleic acid and/or maleic anhydride in admixture with the resin when it is cured.

2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the amount of maleic anhydride and/or maleic acid is 5% to 55% by weight based on the total weight of the resin and the/or maleic acid.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the amount of maleic anhydride and/or maleic acid is 15% to 40% by weight based on the total weight of the resin and/or maleic acid.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the maleic acid and/or maleic anhydride is applied to the lignocellulosic material separately of application of the resin.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the maleic acid and/or maleic anhydride is admixed with the resin separately to application of the admixture of the lignocellulosic material.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the maleic acid and/or maleic anhydride are admixed with a wax emulsion.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the wax emulsion is rendered more stable by the inclusion of a polybutene emulsion.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 which utilises maleic anhydride.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the phenol formaldehyde resin is a novolac resin.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the phenol formaldehyde is a resole resin.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the resole resin has a pH of at most 11.5.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein the resole resin has a pH of at most 11.0.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the resole resin has a pH of at most 10.5.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the resole resin has a pH of about 10.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the product is particle board.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the amount of resin and maleic anhydride and/or maleic acid is 2% to 15% by weight of the dry lignocellulosic material.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the lignocellulosic material has a maximum water content of 14% by weight.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the product is orientated strand board.

22-24. (Canceled)